the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, will continue to be processed for approval and regulated in accordance with *all other quidelines. norms, stimulations,* etc., of the Central Government (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, etc.) and the Reserve Bank of India, *to the extent that these other quidelines, etc., are not inconsistent with the quidelines detailed in this policy.*

(d)(i) While the procedures for and approval requirements of industrial projects, as generally laid down by the Central Government from time to time, will be also applicable to industrial projects for exploitation of beach sand minerals, prior consultation with and securing concurrence of the Department of Atomic Energy (by the nodal Ministry/ Department of the Central/State Government concerned dealing with/ piloting the relevant proposals for such industrial projects) will be necessry wherever such projects involve minerals which are either notified as prescribed substances or are produced alongwith other prescribed substances under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

(e) The provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the Rules and Orders thereunder will continue to apply to the exploitation of beach sands minerals, including their import/export, to the extent such minerals are notified as prescribed substances and require licensing under the said provision. The mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act will continue to be granted by the State Governemnt(s) concerned.

(f) All cases of foreign direct investment in activities relating to exploitation of beach sand minerals, whether or not such minerals per se are notified as prescribed substances under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, will continue to be processed for approval and regulated in accordance with all other guidelines, norms, stipulations, etc., of the Central Governemnt (Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, etc.) and the Reserve Bank of India, to the extent that these other guidelines, etc., are not inconsistent with the guidelines detailed in this policy.

Non-Operational Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

1276. SHRI M. VENKAIAN NAIDU: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that so many telephone exchanges in rural areas have not been functioning for want of additional equipment;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Telecommunications are going to allocate the requisite equipment to those Telecom Circles to put the exchanges to optimum utilisation; and

(c) by when all the exchanges can be made fully operational/funcational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such telephone exchange which is not functioning for want of additional equipment.

However, there are some temporary problems in a few cases in rural ares in case of prolonged power failures.

(b) and (c) Steps are taken by the Department to strengthen the stand-by power system by way of providing generators.

Internet Policy for Private ISPS

1277. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
DR. B. B. DUTTA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI GURUNDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the Internet policy for private Internet Services Providers (ISPs);

(b) if so, the details thereof including salient features of the policy;

(c) the number of companies who have applied to the DOT for an ISP licence;

(d) whether Government will allow foreign equity in ISP companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main points of Internet Policy are indicated in the statement (*see* below).

(c) 81 Companies have applied for ISP licence.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Foreign equity, if any, shall be as per existing Government policy. At present maximum foreign equity permitted is 49%

Statement

Synopsis of ISP Policy

(a) Any Indian company with a maximum foreign equity of 49% is eligible.

(b) Category 'A' Service Area — whole of India, Catgegory 'B' Service Area — Any of the 20 territorial Telecom Circles, Metros— Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and four major cities — Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune. Category 'C' Service Area — Any secondary switching area of DOT.

(c) An applicant company may be granted any number of licences and there will be no limit of number of licences granted in a particular area.

(d) Application form costs Rs. 1000/-. Processing fee per application is Rs. 5000/-

(e) Period of licence — 15 years.

(f) Licence fee — waived for first 5 years and Re. 1/- per annum for subsequent period.

(g) Bank Guarantee — Rs. 2 Crores for Category 'A' Service Area, Rs. 20 lakhs for Category 'B' Service Area and Rs. 3 lakhs for Category 'C' Service Area.

(h) International connectivity — Throurgh geteways of DOT, VSNL or authorised public/Government organisations. Private ISPs are allowed to provide gateways after obtaining security clearance.

(i) Establishment of transmission links — Private ISPs can obtain transmission links on lease from DOT, licensed Basic Service Operator, Railways, State Electricity Boards, National Power Grid Corporation etc. They may also establish their own transmission links, provided they are not available from authorised sources and subject to permission of authority.

(j) Telephony on the Internet is not permitted.

TRAI'S Proposal regarding Telephone Tariffs

1278. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have proposed hike in Telecom. Tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the comments of public on the proposed hike which appeared in the press, recently; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this matter?